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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/047,032	01/15/2002	Andreas Johannes Gerrits	NL 010054	4253
24737	7590	06/13/2005	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			HARPER, V PAUL	
P.O. BOX 3001			ART UNIT	
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			PAPER NUMBER	
2654				
DATE MAILED: 06/13/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/047,032	GERRITS, ANDREAS JOHANNES
	Examiner	Art Unit
	V. Paul Harper	2654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/15/02 4/08/02

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The Examiner has considered the references listed in the Information Disclosure Statements dated 4/08/02 and 1/15/02. Copies of these Information Disclosure Statements are attached to this office action.

Preliminary Amendment

2. The examiner acknowledges the fact the preliminary amendment (submitted on 1/15/02) is used in the following rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16-18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chai (U.S. Patent 6,137,915), hereinafter referred to as Chai.

Regarding **claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 17**, Chai discloses an apparatus and method for error concealment for hierarchical subband coding and decoding. Chai's system includes the following:

- a transmitter for transmitting an input signal to a receiver via a transmission channel (Fig. 2, item 250; col. 4, lines 14-22),
- the transmitter comprising a splitter for splitting up the input signal into at least first and second frequency band signals (Fig. 2, items 220₁, 220₂, ... 220_n; col. 3, lines 28-35, lines 53-64),
- the transmitter further comprising a first encoder for encoding the first frequency band signal into a first encoded frequency band signal and a second encoder for encoding the second frequency band signal into a second encoded frequency band signal (Fig. 2, abstract, subband coding; col. 3, lines 28-33, lines 53-64),
- the transmitter being arranged for transmitting the first and second encoded frequency band signals via the transmission channel to the receiver (Fig. 2, items 240 and 245),
- the receiver comprising a first decoder for decoding the first encoded frequency band signal into a first decoded frequency band signal and a second decoder for decoding the second encoded frequency band signal into a second decoded frequency band signal (Fig. 2, items 260, 270, and 290; col. 4, lines 14-21, elementary streams),
- the receiver further comprising a combiner for combining the first and second decoded frequency band signals into an output signal (Fig. 2, items 270, 275, 290, 295; col. 4, lines 14-22),

- the receiver further comprising reconstruction means for reconstructing the second decoded frequency band signal when the second decoded frequency band signal is not available, characterised in that the reconstruction means are arranged for reconstructing the second decoded frequency band signal from the first decoded frequency band signal (Fig. 5, col. 4, lines 30-42; col. 5, lines 9-27; corrupted subband HH_2 can be concealed by using uncorrupted coefficients ... from subbands LH_2 and HL_2).

Regarding **claim 2, 6, 10, 14, and 18** Chia teaches everything claimed, as applied above (see claim 1). In addition, Chia teaches "that the reconstruction means are arranged for reconstructing the second decoded frequency band signal from the first decoded frequency band signal by extending a bandwidth of the first decoded frequency band signal" (col. 5, lines 20-25; corrupted HH_2 can be concealed by using uncorrupted coefficients ... from subbands LH_2 and HL_2 [extending the bandwidth]).

Regarding **claim 4, 8, 12, 16, and 20**, Chai teaches everything claimed, as applied above (see claim 1). In addition, Chai teaches "the first frequency band signal and the first encoded frequency band signal and the first decoded frequency band signal are signals having a low frequency band and in that the second frequency band signal and the second encoded frequency band signal and the second decoded frequency band signal are signals having a high frequency band" (Fig. 2, col. 3, lines

28-35; col. 4, lines 14-23, lines 31-42; e.g., LL is a low frequency band, HH is a high frequency band, etc).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3, 7, 11, 15 and 19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chai in view of Zinser (U.S. Patent 5,384,793), hereinafter referred to as Zinser.

Regarding **claim 3, 7, 11, 15, and 19**, Chai teaches everything claimed, as applied above (see claim 1). As stated in the rejection of claim 1, Chai teaches that an adjacent subband can be used to repair a corrupted subband (col. 2, lines 9-27), but Chai does not specifically teach “that the reconstruction means are arranged for reconstructing a present frame of the second decoded frequency band signal from a present frame of the first decoded frequency band signal **and from a previous frame of the second decoded frequency band signal.**” However, the examiner contends that this concept was well known in the art, as taught by Zinser.

In the same field of endeavor, Zinser discloses an error protection method for dynamic bit allocation sub-band coding. Zinser teaches that energies from the previous

frame can be combined with energies from the adjacent energies in the current frame for synthetic regeneration (col. 3, lines 8-16).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Chai by specifically providing features, as taught by Zinser, because it is well known in the art at the time of invention for the purpose of obtaining a better estimate by interpolating with information time [previous] as well as frequency [adjacent subband].

Citation of Pertinent Art

5. The following prior art made of record but not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure:

- Breen (U.S. Patent 6,691,083) discloses the synthesis of wideband speech from a narrowband speech signal.
- Lawlor et al. (U.S. Patent 5,353,059) disclose a method for data error concealment in frequency separated digital image data.
- Shikakura (U.S. Patent 5,600,374) discloses an encoding/decoding apparatus using a frequency band dividing circuit.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to V. Paul Harper whose telephone number is (571) 272-7605. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (571) 272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

6/08/2005

V. Paul Harper
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2654

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Paul Harper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "V. Paul" on the top line and "Harper" on the bottom line.